

110th Congress
2d Session

Managers: Sutton
Dreier

H. RES. ____

H. Res. 895 – Establishing within the House of Representatives an Office of Congressional Ethics, and for other purposes

1. Provides that House Resolution 895, amended by the amendment printed in the Rules Committee report accompanying the resolution, is hereby adopted.
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RESOLUTION

Resolved, That House Resolution 895, amended by the amendment printed in the report of the Committee on Rules accompanying this resolution, is hereby adopted.

Summary of Amendment Proposed to be Considered as Adopted

The amendment would (1) require that all appointments to the board be made by the Speaker and Minority Leader; (2) expand the board to include at least one alternate member from each side; (3) provide that Office of Congressional Ethics ("OCE") reviews be initiated at the request of at least one member appointed by the Speaker and one member appointed by the Minority Leader; (4) clarify that the board can initiate preliminary reviews; (5) require the affirmative vote of at least three members to move to a second-phase review; (6) provide that if three members do not vote to commence a second-phase review, then the matter is terminated; (7) clarify that subjects of OCE review may make presentations to the board before the board transmits a recommendation or statement to the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct; (8) provide that any time before the end of the preliminary review, four members of the board can vote to terminate it; (9) clarify that Members, officers, and staff may not communicate with the OCE regarding OCE cases; (10) impose new confidentiality rules and ex parte communication bars on OCE members and staff; (11) clarify that the elective office agreement pertains also to alternate members and OCE staff but refers only to seeking a seat in the U.S. House or Senate; (12) subject OCE staff to restrictions on political activities; and (13) clarify that the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct may not receive referrals from the Office of Congressional Ethics within 60 days prior to Federal, state, or local elections.